

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3-17 stand rejected and claim 2 is objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 2. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 13, 16, and 17 have been amended. New claim 18 has been added. No new matter has been added. The amendments made to the claims do not alter the scope of these claims, nor have these amendments been made to define over the prior art. Rather, the amendments to the claims have been made for cosmetic reasons to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claim 2 was indicated as being allowable by the Examiner and has been redrafted in independent form. This claim has been further amended to conform with the description of the present application with regard to reference signs 230a and 230b in Fig. 1.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,263,990 ("Alasti"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to claim 17, Applicants note that Alasti fails to disclose the processing unit being a cryptography coprocessor. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is allowable over Alasti.

Claims 1, 4, 14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alasti in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,951,661 ("Tavallaei"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicants note that claim 1 explicitly recites that the ratio between a clock frequency of the first clock and the clock frequency of the second clock is irrational. This feature was not shown in the prior art reference previously cited by the Examiner,

U.S. Patent No. 5,701,801 ("Williams"). Additionally, Applicants note that this feature is also not present in Alasti.

Alasti describes that within an assembly of CPU and I/O devices, the CPU clock and the I/O device clocks are different from each other. Particularly, the clocks are asynchronous to each other. See col. 6, ln. 1, et seq.

The Examiner notes that Alasti fails to anticipate claims 1, 4, 14, 16, and their dependent claims. The Examiner includes U.S. Patent No. 6,470,393 in an attempt to cure the deficiencies noted by the Examiner in Alasti. However, Heinrich and the other references also fail to disclose an irrational frequency ratio. In fact, clock frequencies which are different from each other are not disclosed.

Applicants note that none of the cited references discloses distributing energy for an electronic circuit to a peripheral unit and a central processing unit being comprised by the electric circuit. In contrast, Heinrich is directed to the switching of certain parts of circuitry in case of the circuit parts inactivity.

Finally, the Office Action fails to set forth a motivation to combine. Alasti is directed to the relationship of clock signals between the CPU and I/O devices. There is no motivation to transfer the teaching in Alasti to other peripherals such as those set forth in claims 10 or 16. Further, nothing in Alasti suggests using an asynchronous clock as disclosed in connection with devices other than I/O devices. Thus, at least in connection with such specific peripheral devices as those set forth in claim 10 and 16, those claims are allowable over the cited reference.

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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